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July
2021**

Country Neighbor

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and Share!**

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Tourists! Visitors! Welcome!

You will have a good time exploring communities in the Valleys of the Nemaha River. Take this free publication home with you to use as a reference for your next visit to this charming area.

Readers!

Returning this month are most of your favorite Nemaha Valley columnists. This 16-page issue can be your 2-cups-of-coffee companion.

Viewers!

In this issue you will find some of my recent photographs of wildlife and rural landscapes of Southeast Nebraska..

Shoppers!

Keep up with local businesses and news of what's special this month. Please thank them for advertising in "Your Country Neighbor!"





Jet Skis On The Missouri River At Brownville, Nebraska. Play Safe This Summer!

A Magazine from Small Town & Rural America

*Sweeten your Coffee Break with these
Voices and Views from the
Valleys of the Nemaha*

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Your Country Neighbor

Voices and Views From the Valleys of the Nemaha

Publisher & Photographer, Stephen Hassler

P.O. Box 126
Peru, Nebraska 68421

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Online at yourcountryneighbor.com

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“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”

Ralph Waldo Emerson

July Writers & Contributors

Devon Adams - 6 & 7

Merri Johnson - 10

Dorothy Rieke - 2

Janet Sobczyk - 11

Thank You!

Total Covid-19 Deaths In Nebraska

Source: Google Search; ‘Name’ County, Nebraska Covid

May 29 2376

June 24 2519

Covid-19 Totals In SE Nebraska

County	Cases	Deaths
Otoe	1479	13
Nemaha	804	13
Johnson	656	10
Richardson	816	24

Follow CDC Guidelines as to when/where to wear a mask.

Go to [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) and search for “wearing a mask.”

Do Not Relax Your Handwashing.

Vaccines do not protect you from the common cold.

Friends Are Special

Dorothy Rieke, Julian

Friends play extremely important roles in our lives. They come in different shapes, sizes, and ages, but all have special personal traits that appeal. In other words, they are those close associates that are known, liked, and trusted.

Friends are there for us sharing our happy moments and our sorrows. Through their faithful, caring ways, they exhibit encouragement and support. In some cases, friendships evolve into a “two against the world” situation. In fact, through our friends, we summon strength to meet life’s challenges.

With friends, we discover that burdens are lighter because sharing troubles alleviates aloneness and fear. In fact, sharing with others means our joy is doubled and grief lessened because someone is there for us.

FRIENDSHIPS BRING OUT THE BEST. In true friendships, each person unselfishly considers the other’s interests before his own. In fact, the friend’s happiness becomes a priority. Forgetting about ourselves means a change in attitude with new perspectives as well as instituting a new way of living that is gratifying and fulfilling.

FRIENDSHIPS REQUIRE TRUST. Friends trust each other with their innermost thoughts and dreams. Through unconditional trust, they share with another while making individual contributions.

FRIENDSHIPS REFLECT GOOD QUALITIES. Many relationships between friends become reflections of each person’s worthiness and value through interaction with each other. Special traits such as kindness, sympathy, and understanding develop during friendships. These traits keep friendships in constant repair.

FRIENDSHIPS CREATE FAITH AND CONFIDENCE. A good friend is the last one to accuse his friend of wrong doing and the first to believe in that person. He will encourage, cheer, support, and inspire. Success and achievements bloom brighter, and burdens are divided because of mutual sharing.

FRIENDSHIPS ARE ESSENTIAL TO OUR WELL-BEING. The advantages of having good friends are tremendous. The disadvantages, which include taking time for friends, dealing with false friends, or discovering incompatibility, are few.

FRIENDSHIPS PROMOTE LOVE. Perhaps, the most important benefit of having friends is love which is often a reflection of a person’s worth because friendships promote love and caring. To be loved and to love brings intense happiness and contentment.

Develop friendships with those who understand your past, believe in your future, and are pleased to share your present. A friend’s affection is a great treasure that enhances, improves, and complements our lives.

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The Carson House is a popular museum in Brownville.

June wildflowers along H-67 south of Nemaha, Nebraska.
(Continued on the next page.)



Virginia Rose. More appropriately, Pasture Rose or Wild Rose.



Parsnip



Poison Hemlock



Foxglove

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WREN HOUSE

Today they found
the perfect place
to build a nest.

His song was
loud and close,
and I saw him
right away.

All day they've
been collecting
bits of grass and
leaves, and other
things to weave.
Her white house
has a front door,
plus a back door
too. On each
and every trip
he stops to sing
to me, and every
muscle in his
tiny body vibrates
like a tuning fork.
"Oh, did I forget
to mention that
they're moving
into the hollows
of a skull that
used to be a cow?"
It is hanging on
an old iron gate
that is a trellis for
blood red roses.

LOST IN A MAZE

At first, it was just a
little glitch, a hiccup
in her day that seemed
so simple to explain.
She was sort of short
of sleep, that morning
when her favorite pie
turned out all wrong.
How could she have
used salt instead of
sugar? Her family
giggled, joking that
maybe she should
read the recipe. But,
they had a premonition.
Like a message written
in smoke on the sky, the
error faded, until more
bumps in the road were
tripping Mom. Now her
family watches as she
tries to find the way out
of her memory maze.
She is drifting on a lake
of dreams and reality
and hallucinations. The
oars are gone, but she
wouldn't know how to
use them anyway.

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with the flavor of rural America.

P O e t r y

CELEBRATE FREEDOM

Remember the war that made our country free, and then salute the soldiers who have kept it free, with their love and their blood. They knew how to fight for a cause that mattered more to them than their lives. Some left families who never got to see them come back home again. Fireworks, picnics and parties are fun, but freedom is our right and the reason to be an American.

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A PAINTED GARDEN

In the long light of a summer day, the garden glows with rainbows of colors, painted on petals by a master artist. The brushwork was fast and furious, as he hurried to capture light on the living canvas. At a glance, your eye catches dabs of paint thrown into long grass and stems. You see only a fleeting impression. But the heavy aroma of blossoms, along with bugs and bees who come for the pollen, is real.

STOP FOR SUMMER

Slow down, sit down and savor the sun and the wind and whatever the day may bring. Summer stays a little while and runs away from us in Autumn, before we can beg her to stay another minute. Even when you're too hot to care, there are things to cling to that are only memories in the middle of a blizzard. Golden light at dawn shooting through trees like brass bullets. Birds singing evening songs to the neighborhood, after working hard all day. Giant thunderheads making mountains of themselves before the cooling rains come down. Icy lemonade, sweating on it's glass, sliding down your thirsty throat. Keep every second in the files inside your busy brain.

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BUTTERFLIES IN THE RAIN

Soft drizzle drifting, lawns and flowers damp and drippy, kids slipping, sliding, falling on the grass, tasting rain drops. Mud was fun between your toes, and in your hands to make sloppy handprints on the car! Then butterflies flew by, with wet creatures chasing them. Soggy kids, sloppy dogs, quacking ducks, dancing goats, baby pigs, and a lean, leaping llama had a party just because it rained!



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(S)	'14 JD X730, 60" deck, 287 hrs, stk 382978.....	\$7,500
(S)	'18 JD X380, 48" deck, 39 hrs, stk 372944.....	\$3,500
(S)	'97 JD 345, 54" deck, 1362 hrs, stk 374456.....	\$2,400
(A)	'06 JD 44 snowblower, stk 322142.....	\$750
(S)	'05 JD 1445, 72" deck, 1916 hrs, diesel, stk 371132.....	\$7,555
(S)	'13 JD 997, 72" deck, 2530 hrs, diesel, stk 322280.....	\$7,800



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Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson, Auburn



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Do birds ever get hoarse?

We have been hearing a young Baltimore oriole repeat its pleading “don’t make me go” refrain all day long. At least that’s what it sounds like to me; four or five ascending, flute-like notes every few seconds. Its sibling apparently left the nest this morning. Hubby spotted it clinging to the trunk of a hackberry tree, a few feet off the ground. I guess it wasn’t quite confident of its wings yet, as it appeared to be trying to climb the tree to safety. Poor little thing. That was our first sighting of a fledgling oriole, though we have always had nesting pairs in our trees.

Hubby also gets the credit for spotting the nest. He had been observing the adult orioles taking a quick beak-full of grape jelly and then flying up into the hackberry where they simply disappeared. He patiently searched the branches and was finally rewarded when the morning breeze blew the foliage around just enough to give him a glimpse of the nest, solving the mystery of how they could disappear so quickly and completely.

But back to the reluctant fledgling. It is now past 8:00 p.m. and I don’t think that bird has stopped cheeping for more than a minute at a time all day. The parents have fed it this evening, so its persistence has paid off. I’m guessing the parents are eager to see it join its sibling and learn how to fend for itself. They will not coddle it forever.

Several years ago, I picked up an old oriole nest that had blown out of the tree. Inside was the skeleton of a baby bird. Perhaps there was something wrong with it, or maybe it refused to leave and simply starved.

Some birds – like domestic chickens – are precocial. Very shortly after hatching, they are up and scratching around for bugs. But songbirds are altricial. They need a few weeks to develop feathers and the ability to stand, hop and fly.

Humans, of course, are the most dependent infants. It seems counter-intuitive that the species with the highest intelligence is the most helpless at birth, and continues to be dependent on its parents for practically everything for several years. I am sure there are numerous physiological and evolutionary reasons for this. The fact that a human’s life span is much longer than most animals’ affords us the luxury of not having to earn our own keep within weeks of birth.

But imagine if, instead of 85 years, your lifespan was only 30 years and you knew that you would have to take care of your children until they were 18, as most human parents do today. I suspect most of us would never have kids if we had to spend over half of our lives spoon-feeding them!! In comparison, parent birds have it easy. About two weeks sitting on the nest and then another two of constant feeding. There are often two clutches in a season, so the parents are kept pretty busy for a couple of months, but after that, the kids have taken off and the parents have the rest of the year to recuperate and get up to some grown-up bird shenanigans before the process starts again!

I am so glad that I had two children and now have two grandchildren. Those days of child rearing flew by and now my older grandchild has turned 13. I enjoy the grandkids now just as much as when they were little. Their constant refrain then – “why?” – was sometimes tedious, but it was also a great joy as it gave evidence that their curious minds were working as they should.

But I have to say, that little oriole with its incessant cheeping is starting to get on my nerves. I’m glad it’s not my kid!



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Canada Geese at Verdon State Park near Verdon, Nebraska



Highway 67 Southeast of Peru, Nebraska (looking North).

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Summer Reading

Janet Sobczyk, Omaha, © 2021

The table on my deck is a perfect reading spot
sun filters softly through familiar trees
birds twitter, chirp, coo
I settle in and sigh
allow the words to transport my mind.

A temperate breeze drops a thin vine onto open book
helps the potted plant take a peek
at what's holding my intent gaze on this page
startled I gently finger the tender young growth, move it aside
then pause to enjoy the sweet mint fragrance clinging onto fingertips.

The familiar scent takes me back to Grandma's house
to the mint patch along the side of her paint-peeling old house
it stretched out, growing along the gravel driveway
I'd inhale the scent, then pick through rocks to find white ones
use 'em like chalk on the concrete walk.

The image elicits a smile
and a twinge of pain at childhood days long gone
then the vine returns
quivers with the slightest movement of air
creeps onto my page again... comforting.



Photo by Janet Sobczyk



Great Blue Heron with 'catch.' Refuge, June 1, 2021



Red-winged Blackbird, Refuge, June 1, 2021



White Egret, Refuge, June 1, 2021



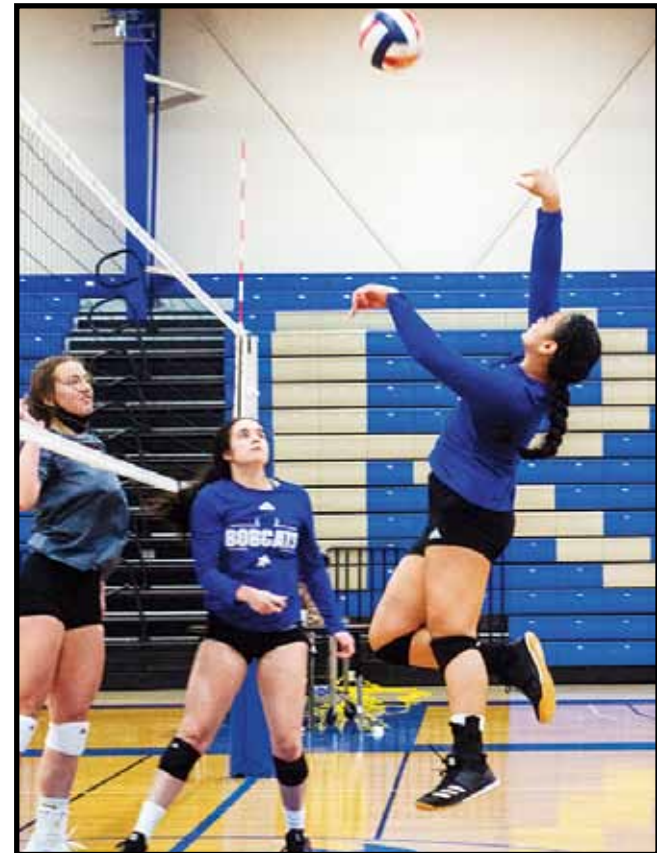
Pelicans, Refuge, June 1, 2021



Peru State College Sports Review Part I

Football, Men's Basketball, Volleyball

Next Month Part II, Baseball, Women's Basketball, Softball





Peru State College President Retires



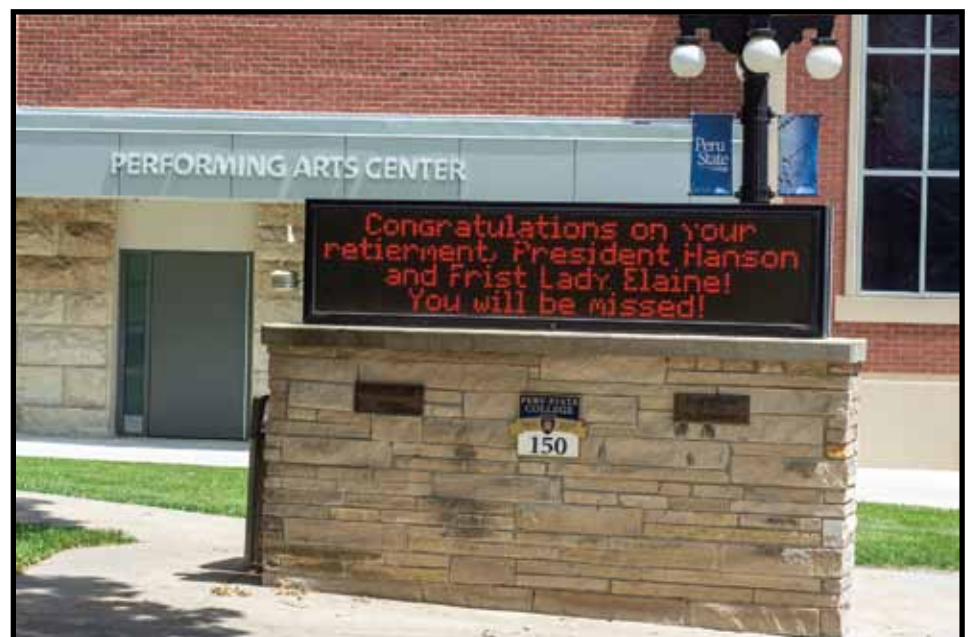
President Dan Hanson and First Lady Elaine shared memories of PSC on the “Campus of a Thousand Oaks.”



Senator Julie Slama presented Dr. Hanson documentation appointing him to the “Nebraska Navy,” by Governor Ricketts.



PSC Alumni, Faculty and Friends gather to honor Dan and Elaine as they begin their retirement.



Peru State College News

Season Ticket Sales Announced

As we all know, the Covid-19 virus changed a lot of things last year. That was the case with Peru State athletics and its game management and ticketing procedures.

The Bobcat athletic department is anticipating that while everything will not yet be totally normal that athletic events will take place as close to normal as possible. This will include bringing back the popular tailgating option for home football games.

Last year, Peru State partnered with Home-Town Ticketing for its pre-game sales of tickets prior to contests. The link for purchasing tickets is <https://pscbobcats.com/sports/2020/8/14/tickets-tailgate.aspx> The College will continue to utilize the online ticketing process for this year.

Season tickets are available for pre-sale prior to the opening of sales for individual games. Likewise, tailgating season passes will be made available prior to opening of sales for individual spots. All passes will go on sale July 1 at 8 a.m.

Bogard Hired as Assistant Coach of Women's Basketball

Peru State head women's basketball coach Ian Holleran has announced the hiring of Brianna Bogard as the Bobcats' new assistant coach. Bogard began her duties on June 1.

Bogard is excited about her new opportunity and is ready to help the Bobcats turn around a program which has not had a winning season in many years. She stated, "I'm extremely excited to be joining the Peru State College Women's Basketball program. I want to thank Coach Holleran and the athletic department for giving me this opportunity. I can't wait to see what this upcoming season has in store for us."

Holleran concluded, "Being a former Division I point guard, Brianna will be a major asset in coaching our guards. In addition, she will take on a lead role in scouting as well as recruiting. Brianna is a high-level person, recruiter, and coach, and she will make an immediate impact in all aspects of the program."

The Bobcats will be opening their season on October 23 when they host the Doane Tigers at 4 p.m.

College and Community Happy to Work Together (Again)

As the COVID-19 pandemic wiped out their annual clean-up day in 2020, the community of Peru and students and staff of Peru State College looked forward to 2021 city-wide clean-up day.

Initiated approximately ten years ago by the College's First Lady Elaine Hanson and Peru State President Dan Hanson, along with city officials, the Peru City-Wide Clean-Up had been an annual event until COVID-19 halted it last year. When it appeared that it could happen in 2021, several individuals put their heads together to make sure it would take place.

First Lady Hanson, along with Angela Allgood – Peru assistant city clerk, community member Marty Peregoy, and College staffers Peggy Groff, Crystal Hutson, Jason Hogue, and Ted L. Harshbarger, helped get the ball rolling for the 2021 event.

The (almost) annual event has been traditionally held the Friday prior to graduation at the College. This year's event was held on April 30.

Over 100 students, staff, and community members participated in the event which had 12 different individuals providing trucks and/or trailers to help pick up trash from around the city. Allgood reported that at least 92 loads of trash were picked up.

In addition, members of the cheerleading team planted flowers in planters located in the downtown area while other students and staff walked around town to pick up small trash along the roadsides.

Allgood was pleased with how smoothly the event went especially since this was her first time working with it as a city official. She commented, "Dr. and Mrs. Hanson were a great help in helping me transition into the event. It was great seeing so many people come together to help clean up Peru and make our community a better place to live."

PSC Football Booster Golf Tournament Date set as July 16

Now is time to register for the upcoming Peru State Football Booster Club Golf Tournament, which will be held Friday, July 16. The tournament will be held at the Auburn Country Club. Don't wait to register as this tournament fills quickly! The schedule for the day includes registration beginning at 8:00 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. for the four-person scramble. A dinner will follow the 18-hole event. The cost is \$300 for a team of four. If a cart is needed, a \$20 fee will be assessed. There is a 22-team limit. Mulligans will be available for purchase.

A light lunch will be available from the Country Club. This is a fun tournament where those interested in Bobcat athletics can come, socialize, and help support the Football Booster Club.

All proceeds from the event will go to support the Peru State Bobcat football program. There will be a raffle and a silent auction as part of the event.

Hole sponsorships are available for \$100 or \$50 for a half-hole sign. In addition, the Booster Club is seeking raffle prizes and silent auction items. Over the past ten years, the Booster Club has provided over \$800,000, primarily supporting the Bobcat football program with various items needed which are not supported by their state budget.

Membership information for the Booster Club is available at <https://bit.ly/3d8rE7n>. An online payment version is available through the Peru State Foundation at <https://pscsgiving.org/booster/> or you can print off a form and mail it with a check. For more information about the tournament or membership, please contact Mike Gerdes by email at mgerdes@auburnstatebank.com.





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Our Grand Italian Buffet

Includes Pizza, Salad & Dessert!

And Another Great Favorite!

Country Style Fried Chicken!!

Always Fresh, Never Frozen

With Sides of Corn, Biscuits, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Valentino's of Nebraska City
1710 South 11th Street
Nebraska City, NE 68410
(402) 873-5522



Pure Raw Honey

12 oz. bears	\$3.95
24 oz. bears	\$7.50
5 lb. jug	\$21.00
1 gallon jug (12 lbs.).....	\$49.00
5 gallon jug (60 lbs.).....	\$175.00

402 - 274 - 3725
Auburn, Nebraska
We Can Ship Any Amount

July 2021

Your Country Neighbor